



## *Airman begins with a capital "A"*

By General John P. Jumper  
Air Force Chief of Staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — I am an Airman.

Note that is with a capital "A." It is just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the United States Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important like our own name, our hometown and our country. This was reinforced throughout our education and professional life.

It is time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about my guidance to capitalize the word "Airman." It is appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen who have devoted their lives to dominating the skies. Capitalizing the word "Airman" recognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America's wars.

## 8th AF Headquarters reopens historic home



From left to right, Mr. Donald W. Weir Sr., after whom the building is named; Mr. Larry Gibbs, owner of the construction company that did the work on the building; and Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, cut the ribbon to the rebuilt headquarters building March 26.

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau  
8th Air Force Public Affairs

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.** — Eighth Air Force officially re-opened its historic headquarters building in a ribbon-cutting ceremony here March 26, two years after the building was struck by lightning and burned for more than 12 hours.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, Mr. Donald W. Weir Sr., after whom the building is named; and Mr. Larry Gibbs, owner of the construction company that rebuilt the

headquarters building.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson took command of 8th Air Force in May 2002, two months after the fire, and believed he would never have the chance to work in the historic headquarters building. "Thanks to Gibbs Construction and the efforts of countless others, Eighth Air Force personnel moved in right on schedule," he said. "Taking just 22 months to go from fire recovery, to rebuilding, to re-entry of equipment, resources and personnel — what an amazing feat and testament to the builders!"

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# Tragedy of war teaches life lesson

**MINOT AFB, N.D.** – Every once in a while, life has a way of slinging a curve ball at your chin and waking you up.

For me, it happened last summer when the war we all watch and read about materialized right in front of me. It taught me a valuable lesson in life and leadership.

It was supposed to be just another “check ride.” I was flying with a crew handling an emergency aero-medical evacuation mission out of Kandahar, Afghanistan. After several previous flights into Kandahar hauling “beans and bullets,” the missions once filled with trepidation had now become somewhat routine.

That’s where the story starts.

All we knew was that someone had been shot in the face while on patrol. The critical care air transport team traveling with us also had very little information. Upon arrival, the surgeon tending to the patient briefed the medics, then the flight crew.

“John” (not his real name, but nonetheless a very real person) had been leading his unit through a crowd, when out of nowhere someone shot him in the left side of his face with a small caliber weapon. The bullet shattered his lower jaw, traveled through his mouth and exited his right cheek. According to all accounts, he then walked to a vehicle and was driven to a medical care facility.

When I first saw him on the stretcher, his head was completely bandaged, much like a winter cap that only reveals your eyes, nose and mouth. On the five-hour flight, the medical team worked to make him as comfortable as possible. After we landed, a specialist immediately saw

*All we knew was that someone had been shot in the face while on patrol. The critical care air transport team traveling with us also had very little information.*

him and said he should continue his journey to somewhere with more advanced facilities.

While those arrangements were being made, I stopped to talk to John. Despite the numerous tubes and IV lines, he was in good spirits. I suppose enough morphine has a way of doing that for you. He communicated by writing questions on a note pad. He answered in the same manner. At one point, despite his condition, he had the energy to play an electronic game a nurse was carrying. I found that extraordinary. I can’t reveal any of the personal information he shared, because he is one of the guys you don’t see or hear.

John was one of the many members of the armed forces doing the work the president asked us to complete after Sept. 11, 2001. He did this dangerous task in less-than-desirable conditions under the cloak of anonymity.

Watching and talking to him, I suddenly felt the brutality and reality of war.

Another human being with more guts than I will ever have was just doing his job when a nameless, faceless coward took a cheap shot,

slithered back into the crowd and changed John’s life forever. These are the kind of people we are fighting – the same cowards who fly civilian airliners into buildings full of innocent people.

Eventually, I helped carry John’s stretcher to the ambulance. I gave him my squadron patch so when the morphine wore off, he would have a “road map” of those who helped get him to his destination. The nurse put it with his growing collection of unit patches. With a handshake and a “thumbs up” they took him away.

I hope to see him again someday, standing and smiling this time, so I can thank him for the lesson in life I learned that summer’s night.

The experience taught me a lesson in leadership.

In 1910, President Teddy Roosevelt gave a speech in France entitled “Citizenship in a Republic.” From it was gleaned his famous “Man in the Arena” comments.

If you have never read the speech, I encourage you to do so. It is an excellent example of the men and women currently waging the war on terrorism – the kind who put it on the line every day knowing the risk they take. They are the kind who are not afraid to try and make the world a better and safer place for everyone. They are the kind who, when the curve ball comes in chin-high, lean out over the plate a little more the next time.

They are true leaders – the ones who encourage others to keep fighting regardless of the odds against them.

They are the kind of men and women President Roosevelt would have loved. They are the true heroes. God bless ‘em all.

● **REOPEN, from page 1**

Mr. Gibbs said that under the best circumstances “this was not an easy building to design or construct. At many times during the construction, building and designing was being done at the same time.” Mr. Gibbs’ construction company was awarded the Air Combat Command Construction Excellence Award for its innovative 8th Air Force Headquarters rebuilding project.

More than 200 8th Air Force members were relocated to different offices around the base immediately after the fire and of the original 14 computer servers, only two were recovered after the fire. Communications officials said they were able to salvage approximately 200 of 400 computers. “We were able to replace all of the original service with only three new servers,” said Mark Winderweedle, 8th Air Force Network Integration.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, said the 21-month project was “nothing short of miraculous — after my arrival here (two months after the fire), I truly believed I’d never have the chance to work in this mag-

***“Normally, a project of this magnitude is a three to four year process.”***

*Karl Geibel*

8th Air Force staff civil engineer

nificent building,” he said.

Karl Geibel, 8th Air Force staff civil engineer, said the quick turn-around was due to the ‘design-build’ concept that was used. “Normally, a project of this magnitude is a three to four year process,” Mr. Geibel explained. “But through the ‘design-build’ concept, the same contractor was responsible for both the design and the construction, so some work could be accomplished before the design was completed, cutting the completion time drastically.”

Representatives from the 2nd Civil Engineering Squadron, Air Combat Command and Southern Division of the Navy Facilities Engineering Command determined what attributes they were looking for in a contractor. After receiving several proposals, they chose Gibbs Construction, from New Orleans, La. “The shortcut in the design-build process lies in the design por-

tion of the project,” said Mr. Geibel. “Because the designer was a subcontractor to Gibbs, Gibbs had control over the timeliness of both the design and the construction.

Some portions of the construction, such as ordering materials and completing the demolition, could be accomplished without the need for full engineering drawings, saving time in the process.

There was no sprinkler system in the building, which was built in 1933. The renovation included an upgrade to current fire protection standards, including lightning protection, sprinklers from the basement to the attic, escape routes and distances to the nearest fire escape stairwell within the maximum distances required by the fire code, and no wood studs or flammable building materials.

“By designing the facility smartly, we have provided space for 20 percent more

personnel, with everyone having comfortable workstations and computer access,” said Mr. Geibel.

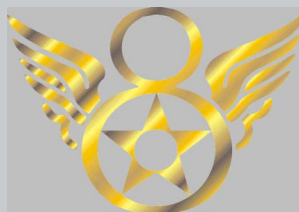
The restoration project consisted of 78.5 miles of fiber optics cable, adding more than 400 work stations and was completed for approximately \$18 million. The interior of the building was redesigned to house a more efficient layout and improve the computer network, but the exterior was rebuilt to maintain the historical integrity of the building.

The building first served as a troop barracks for the 20th Pursuit Group, and subsequently housed the 6th Air Base Unit, Air Training Command and Second Air Force. The building’s extensive historical value earned it a slot on the National Register for Historic Places Jan. 1, 1975.

In 1998, Lt. Gen. Philip Ford, then-commander of 8th Air Force, dedicated the building as the “Don Weir Hall.” General Ford honored Mr. Weir for his “life-long legacy of service to the professional world, the community and military” in the Shreveport/Bossier City area.

## **The “Mighty Eighth” Voice**

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# Mighty Eighth selects its best

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau  
8th Air Force Public Affairs

**BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.** — The “Mighty Eighth” selected its top seven members March 25 at the 2003 Airman of the Year Banquet here.

The winners were selected among more than 45,000 active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilians assigned to Eighth Air Force. Seventy-seven nominees of Eighth Air Force serving all over the United States were recognized at the banquet.

During the banquet, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, said the evening’s nominees were such an impressive group, having to choose the final winners was difficult. “Behind every achievement that occurred during this past year stood America’s most precious commodity – you!” he said. “Be justifiably proud in the role you have played ... you are all the best of the best.”

“Congratulations to all our nominees for their dedication and devotion throughout the past year,” said 8th Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Ledoux. “Tonight we’re recognizing the achievements of our ‘Mighty Eighth’ members for their efforts during 2003. They have all worked extremely hard supporting our different operations and it’s a pleasure to get the opportunity to honor them this evening.”

The winners in each category are:

## Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Justin Trainor is an audit and control technician assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base, Calif. Airman Trainor was named the Air Combat Command Financial Management Airman of the

Year and the 9th RW Airman of the year. He led 48 in-house training classes and is a mentor and trainer for eight new airmen. He also audited and paid 17,655 travel vouchers. Travel voucher timeliness rose to 98 percent, exceeding the 95 percent standard. Airman Trainor also revamped the pay document auditing process, streamlining the base pay process from seven days to three. In addition to his high work ethics, Airman Trainor is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business. He has completed 42 hours with a 3.8 grade point average. A selfless volunteer, Airman Trainor was elected the unit advisory council treasurer and UAC president.



## NCO of the Year

Tech Sgt. James Warrick is a security forces flight chief also assigned to the 9th RW, Beale AFB. Sergeant Warrick was named the 9th Security Forces Squadron NCO of the Year, the 9th Mission Support Group NCO of the Year and 9th RW NCO of the Year for 2003. He completed flight chief qualification training 40 percent faster than the senior NCO peer group and scored a 97 percent. Sergeant Warrick also developed a new tool for accomplishing incident reports – they are now completed within 72 hours instead of two weeks. He also obtained and implemented an “evidential portable alcohol testing system” which is required in California for DUI investiga-



tions. A devoted student, Sergeant Warrick earned 15 semester hours toward his Community College of the Air Force degree, amassing 61 total credits. He is one class shy of completing his degree. Sergeant Warrick spoke with 200 Boy Scouts at their annual Jamboree about leadership standards and the Air Force core values. He is also a volunteer game warden and protects 23,000 acres of natural resources and wildlife used by more than 9,000 base residents.

## Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt. Mary Mercado is a career assistance advisor at the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D. She was named the Air Combat Command Advisor of the Year for 2003. In addition to being the career assistance advisor, she is also the Professional Development Center superintendent – filling two full-time positions. Sergeant Mercado conducted four Informed Decision Seminars, briefing 71 people. Seven of the 10 attendees reconsidered their exit decisions. In addition, she is also a strong advocate for Air Force special duties – of 46 identified as vulnerable, she filled 20 vacancies in stressed Air Force career fields. She also trained 411 airmen, noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers in 2003 – with 97 percent of her students rating her seminars as “Outstanding.” Sergeant Mercado emceed four Heartlink programs – also rated “Outstanding.” As a “We Are All Recruiters” program supporter, she briefed 500 high school students about military benefits.



● **BEST, from page 4**

## Company Grade Officer of the Year

First Lieutenant Jason Kalman is a munitions flight commander at the 2nd Munitions Squadron, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La. He was awarded the 2nd Bomb Wing Leo Marquez Award and was named the 2nd Bomb Wing Company Grade Officer of the Year for 2003.



Described as an outstanding manager, Lieutenant Kalman supervised the delivery of 1,300 MK-82/84/M117 general purpose bombs and 1,400 ALA-17 flares in support of 53 B-52 aircraft; ensured solid munitions support for 2,300 combat training sorties. He was also chosen over 10 other company grade officers to lead a large munitions deployment to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Once there, he combined 306 troops from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas; Barksdale and Guam into one warfighting team, leading the beddown of 12 B-1 and 12 B-52s. Lieutenant Kalman is enrolled in a doctorate program and maintains a 3.7 grade point average. He is also involved with the local community and recently started a vital squadron booster club. As the first president, he wrote the charter and raised \$13,000.

## First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sgt. Ronald Gorrell is assigned to the 694th Support Squadron, Fort George G. Meade, Md. He has handled many personal issues throughout 2003, including a military couple faced with Hodgkin's disease; assisting with funeral arrangements, meal support and family lodging following a SID's death and resolving chronic pay problems by coor-

dinating with the financial management office – 128 problems were reduced to 10 in two months.

He also organized a dormitory council, electing leaders, prioritizing a "quality of life" list and addressing issues – instrumental in giving Airmen a voice. In addition, Sergeant Gorrell also shows strong community involvement. He organized a collection drive, resulting in two tons of personal items sent to troops deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also filled the financial committee chair for the Air Force Ball event, soliciting donations, organizing the set-up and tear-down.



## Junior Civilian of the Year (GS-8 and Below)

Constance Roe is a paralegal specialist assigned to 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, La. She was named the Headquarters 8th Air Force Civilian of the Year for 2003 and the Headquarters Air Combat Command Outstanding Legal Service Civilian of the Year for 2003. Mrs. Roe is the creator of the 9th Air Force Traveling Military Justice Workshop. As such, she trained 81 judge advocates and paralegals. She accomplished this by assessing bases' common mistakes, then developing and delivering seven hours of realistic training. She also corrected several illegal punishments through review of more than 360 nonjudicial and supplementary actions; ensured accurate information forwarded to personnel files and provided feedback to bases to prevent repeated mistakes. Mrs. Roe completed a 10-week, 20-hour no-



tary course through her local community college and aced the Louisiana notary certification test. An involved member of the local community, Mrs. Roe organized two theme luncheons for retiring members and is an avid supporter of the "Santas in Blue" program – providing Christmas presents to needy children.

## Senior Civilian of the Year (GS-9 and Above)

Don Mooring is the deputy chief of the Master Air Attack Plan at 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Mr. Mooring was a key influence in helping define and plan the future of the Air and Space Operations Center weapon system. Described as "exacting," Mr. Mooring was hand-

picked to represent the 608th Combat Plans Squadron and 8th Air Force at the first AOC Unit Type Code Rewrite Conference; results from the conference will



affect the composition of AOC warfighters plus current and future unit manning. He also represented the 608th CPS at the Theater Aerospace Command and Control Simulation Facility Training Integration Planning Team conference – his expertise was touted as the key to crafting joint training procedures. Mr. Mooring was the "Top Graduate" at the Information Warfare Applications Course and was the top choice to attend the Joint Psychological Operations Course at the Joint Special Operations University. An avid supporter of the local community, he is the vice chairman of the "Friends of the Municipal" Museum Development Committee and has also received the "Proud Residents Involved in Developing our Economy" Award from the local convention industry.

# Col. Mudd takes command of 552nd ACW

By Airman 1st Class K.L. Kimbrell

552nd ACW Public Affairs

**TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla.** – Airmen of the 552nd Air Control Wing, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of the 8th Air Force, and distinguished visitors attended a ceremony March 2 in which Col. Joseph Mudd assumed command of the 552nd ACW from Brig. Gen. Mike Hostage in dock two here.

After serving with the 552nd ACW for more than 18 months, General Hostage has been assigned to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he will serve as the Director of Plans and Programs for Air Education and Training Command.

Colonel Mudd takes the command role of the 552nd ACW after serving



**Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander, Brig. Gen. Mike Hostage and Col. Joseph Mudd salute during the 552nd Air Control Wing change of command ceremony March 2. Colonel Mudd took over from General Hostage. (Photo by Kirk McPheeters)**

as commander of the 36th Air Base Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The new commander is no stranger to Airborne Warning and Control Systems or Air Combat Command.

Colonel Mudd commanded NATO Airborne Warning and Control Systems Flying Squadron One

at Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany, and has served on the Headquarters Air Combat Command staff.

“For the 7 years I have been out of the AWACS program, I stood on the sidelines eagerly watching the amazing accomplishments of the men and women of the 552nd Air Control Wing. I never

dreamed that one day I would be on this stage assuming command [of the 552nd ACW],” said Colonel Mudd.

Colonel Mudd has also commanded the 55th Operations Group at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. This will be his fourth role as commander.

“A command is a special event in an officers career and I’m thrilled to again have the privilege,” said Colonel Mudd.

Base Commander Maj. Gen. Terry Gabreski attended the ceremony along with commanders of other tenant units and local civilian officials.

“To wrap things up, Anna Marie and I are very, very pleased to be a part of this wonderful base,” said Colonel Mudd, “General Gabreski, I look forward to working with you in supporting Team Tinker.”

## Beale wins CINC Installation Excellence Award

### *Earns \$1 million in quality-of-life improvements*

**BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** – Beale earned the 2004 Air Force Commander-in-Chief Installation Excellence Award March 29.

The award comes with \$1 million of quality-of-life improvements. It recognizes the outstanding efforts of the people who operate and maintain Department of Defense installations and

who have done the best with their resources to support the mission.

“This is another step Team Beale has taken to show the world we mean business,” said Brig. Gen. Rudy Wright, 9th Reconnaissance Wing commander. “From our core units, tenant units to community involvement, it’s truly ‘One Team, One Fight.’”

To be nominated, bases had to show innovative programs that create and sustain excellent base operations.

Each base was evaluated in the following categories: improving the

work environment or physical plant; improving the quality of life; enhancing productivity of the work force; increasing customer service; encouraging bottom-to-top communication and team problem solving; promoting unit cohesiveness and recognized outstanding individual efforts; and promoting environmental safety, compliance, remediation and stewardship.

The other two Air Force finalists were Aviano Air Base, Italy, and Misawa AB, Japan, which will each receive \$500,000.



# JSTARS featured in museum exhibit



Members from the Museum of Aviation work on the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar

System exhibit March 17. The exhibit, which is located in the Century of Flight Hangar, opened

March 23 after a ribbon cutting ceremony. (Photos by Senior Airman Tim Beckham)

# Legal Eagles

## *Four 8 AF members named best in their career fields*

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Ferrau  
8th Air Force Public Affairs

Four legal professionals assigned to 8th Air Force and working in offices around the United States were recently named the best in their fields at the 2003 Air Combat Command Legal Awards.

"This is a testament to the people who work throughout Eighth Air Force," said Col. Richard Harding, 8th Air Force judge advocate. "Four of the seven categories were awarded to Eighth Air Force members — we've got great talent within the legal field and I'm proud to see these dedicated workers being rewarded for their hard work throughout the past year, but they would be the first to tell you that they owe a great debt of thanks to their peers and the talented staffs of the legal office to which they are assigned. We have great people who accomplish great things in Eighth Air Force, but never alone. Four ACC winners speaks volumes to the skill and dedication of, not just four outstanding professionals, but also to the outstanding legal team throughout Eighth Air Force."

The Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year Award went to Master Sgt. Kenneth Moser, 55th Wing, Offutt Air

Force Base, Neb. Sergeant Moser launched the first legal office at Kirkuk Iraq during his 190-day deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During this deployment, Sergeant Moser frequently traveled into hostile territory to assist the staff judge advocate with off-base perimeter expansion contract negotiations. He also processed and tracked 165 claims totaling \$56,000, ensuring timely accountability between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. Back at Offutt, Sergeant Moser restructured a legal services brief to include re-training and also briefed more than 500 Offutt first-term airmen.

"I felt honored to win the ACC award because I know there are a lot of sharp senior NCOs in the paralegal career field," said Sergeant Moser.

The Outstanding Reserve Paralegal of the Year was awarded to Master Sgt. Kevin Jackson, 67th Information Operations Wing, Fort George G. Meade, Md. Sergeant Jackson amassed 240 points through a combination of inactive duty training and special tours. During this time, he propelled the 67th IOW Legal Office into the 21st century by virtually eliminating our

paper law library in favor of electronic research tools. Sergeant Jackson turned in more than 1,300 obsolete books and relocated shelving to create critical office space.

As the sole claims examiner for more than three months, Sergeant Jackson consistently beat Air Force metrics. During this time, he processed claims for household goods damage in average of 4.2 days with 91.5 percent of claims completed.

Sergeant Jackson said once he got over the shock of being chosen, and realized the magnitude of the award he received, he was "very excited, not only for me, but for the 67th Information Operations Wing Legal Office as a whole because it takes a team effort for an individual to win this type of award."

Connie Roe, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Barksdale AFB, La., was selected as the Outstanding Legal Service Civilian of the Year. Mrs. Roe created a traveling military justice workshop and trained 81 JAGs and paralegals. She assessed bases' common mistakes and then developed and delivered seven hours of realistic training. She is also considered the 8th Air Force resident expert, fully

implementing The Judge Advocate General policy at the numbered air force and base level to use the Automated Military Justice Analysis and Management System exclusively.

"I was very surprised and appreciative of my selection," said Mrs. Roe. "I just consider myself a part of a really good team!"

Mrs. Roe went on to win in her category at the Air Force level.

Russell Sibbel, 55th Wing, also from Offutt AFB, was named the Outstanding Civilian Attorney of the Year Award. Mr. Sibbel has been praised for his learned counsel, outstanding legal reviews and timely and thorough advice given to the 55th Contracting Squadron and tenants in more than 2,100 contracting actions totaling more than \$240 million. He also took on numerous challenges added by U.S. Strategic Command's expanded national space mission in more than 500 contract actions involving more than \$150 million. Mr. Sibbell also spearheaded Offutt's first participation in Air Force Materiel Command's distance learning offering of the Air Force Systems and Logistics Contracting Course and managed the annual distance learning for the Fiscal Law Course.





# ***BUFFS rule the rock at Andersen AFB***

*By Tech. Sgt. Robert Michel*  
5th Bomb Wing historian

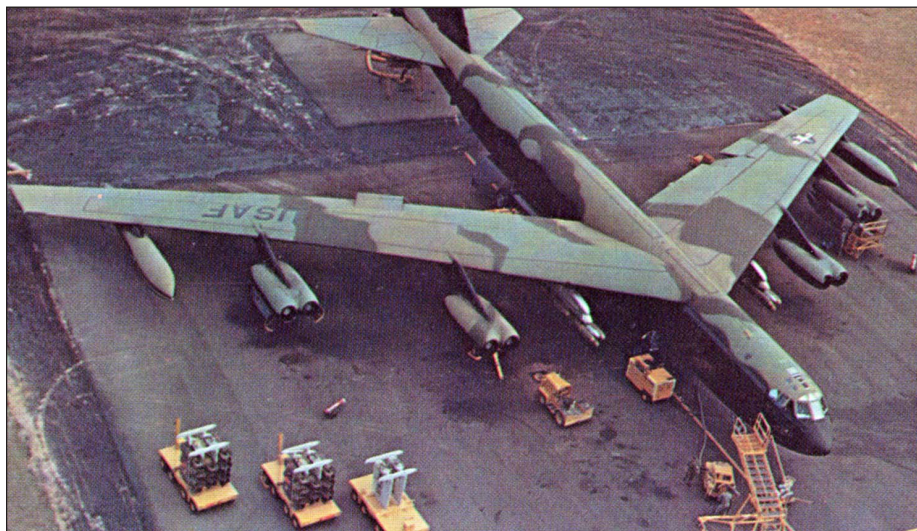
**MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, N.D.** – The B-52 and Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, have a long association. Minot's deployment to Andersen, also known as "Andy" or the "Rock," is the latest in a long line of rotations spanning back to 1964. Early B-52 operations at the Rock included strategic alert and training missions. This changed in 1965 with the deteriorating situation in Southeast Asia.

The conflict in Vietnam took a decided shift in 1965. Increased U.S. involvement and the need for more firepower led to the basing of conventional B-52s on Guam. Twenty-seven B-52Fs flew the first combat missions out of Guam June 18, 1965. They bombed Viet Cong targets in the Republic of South Vietnam under the Arc Light program. The F-model was not particularly well suited for the conventional role over Vietnam and was soon replaced by D-models capable of carrying more ordnance.

Andy remained the staging base for Arc Light missions followed by Operations Rolling Thunder and Linebacker. B-52s from Andersen were decisive in the struggle for Khe Sanh in 1967 to 1968 and introduced the BUFF to close air support missions, according to Air Force historians.

As construction at U-Tapao Air Base in Thailand finished, the base became capable of taking on a larger share of missions. Due to the shorter range from Thailand, operations at Andy drew down. B-52s remained in Guam in a strategic deterrent role with combat crews rotating in and out of U-Tapao.

The Paris Peace Talks in 1972



**A B-52D sits on a runway at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, waiting for its bomb payload. Minot AFB, N.D., began deploying to Andersen in 1964. Minot's B-52s are currently deployed there as part of a 90-day Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation. (Photo courtesy of the 8th Air Force History Office)**

led to more changes. North Vietnam withdrew from cease-fire negotiations, and President Nixon ordered the unrestricted bombing of targets in North Vietnam. Preparations for Operation Linebacker II were to begin in Southeast Asia. Historians called it the fiercest campaign in the history of the B-52.

The base at U-Tapao couldn't handle the huge influx of aircraft and troops in the massive buildup in 1972. Andersen once more became a hive of B-52 activity. The Rock was virtually overrun in the preparation and execution of Linebacker II. It took every bit of hardstand to park 155 B-52s, which amounted to five miles of ramp space. An influx of an additional 8,000 people forced the base to find new places to house them. Areas of the base became known as "The Bicycle Works," "Canvas Court" and "Tin City." Although aircraft from the 5th Bomb Wing were not a part of operations over Southeast Asia, the wing's crews rotated to the combat zone for

tanker and combat tours.

During Linebacker II's 11-day campaign, B-52s flew 724 sorties, including 129 ships in the air the first night. This mission coined a new meaning to the phrase – "aluminum overcast with Iron Rain." The B-52s based at Andersen for Linebacker II were not only responsible for the destruction of fiercely defended military targets, but also for the beginning of the end of U.S. operations in Southeast Asia.

Linebacker II operations finished out, and the North Vietnamese returned to the peace talks. B-52 operations were again drawn down, and the strategic deterrence mission resumed.

Times have changed, but the B-52's association with the Rock remains constant. The B-52 has returned to Andersen many times since those 11 days in 1972, but never again has the world seen a more formidable force assembled for combat, according to Air Force historians.